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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,164	07/28/2003	Yutaka Noro	FP03-037US	5599
1218	7590	10/01/2004	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			FIGUEROA, FELIX O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,164

Applicant(s)

NORO, YUTAKA

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/28/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 7-10 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on July 28, 2004.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because they have elements shown in cross section which are not properly crosshatched. Insulating members shown in cross section should be properly crosshatched. See for example elements 30-33 in Figures 2 and 9. It is brought to applicant's attention that the conventional crosshatch for insulating members shown in cross section consist of lines of two different thicknesses alternatively disposed.



Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

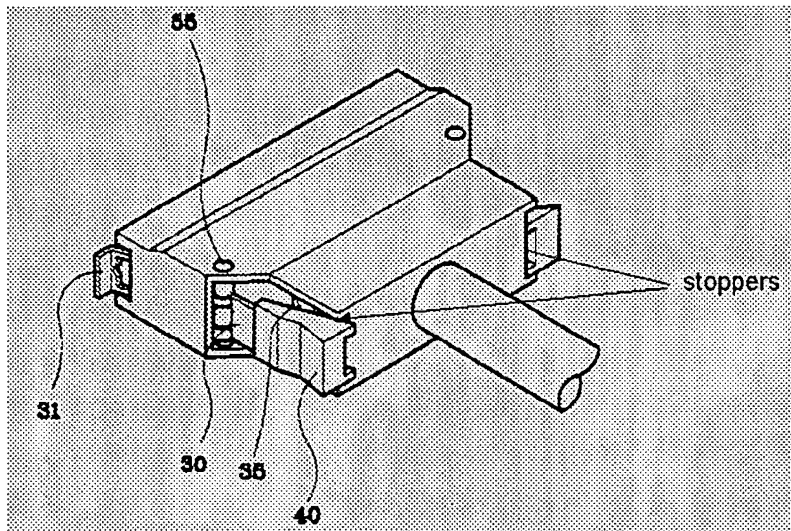
Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang (US 5,860,826).

Chang discloses a connector (50), comprising: a housing (51) into which at least one terminal fitting (not shown) can be mounted and connectable with a mating connector (20); at least one resilient locking piece (30) resiliently deformable between a locking posture (Fig.7B) where the resilient locking piece engages the mating connector to lock the connector and the mating connector together and an unlocking posture (not shown, see col. 3 lines 12-17) where a locked state is canceled, another part (top/bottom of 52) mountable to at least partly cover surfaces of the housing (see Fig.5A), and at least one movable member (40) rotatably supported by the other part (at 54) and adapted to deform the resilient locking piece from the locking posture to the unlocking posture as the movable member is rotated.

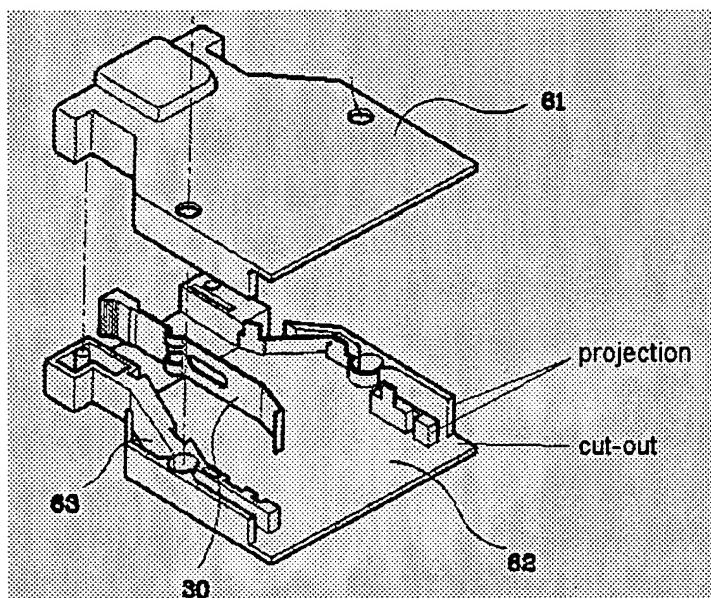
Regarding claim 2, Chang discloses the resilient locking piece being a metallic locking piece (col.2 line 20) and the movable member being formed of synthetic resin (col.2 line 28).

Regarding claim 3, Chang discloses the movable member deforming the resilient locking piece by a levered action using a rotatable shaft (55/65) as a fulcrum during rotation. Please note that the levered action of the movable member (40) deforms the resilient locking piece at least at 35.

Regarding claim 4, Chang discloses the housing comprising at least one stopper (see following figure) for preventing the resilient locking piece from being excessively deformed beyond the unlocking posture by contacting the movable member when the movable member is operated to deform the resilient locking piece into the unlocking posture.

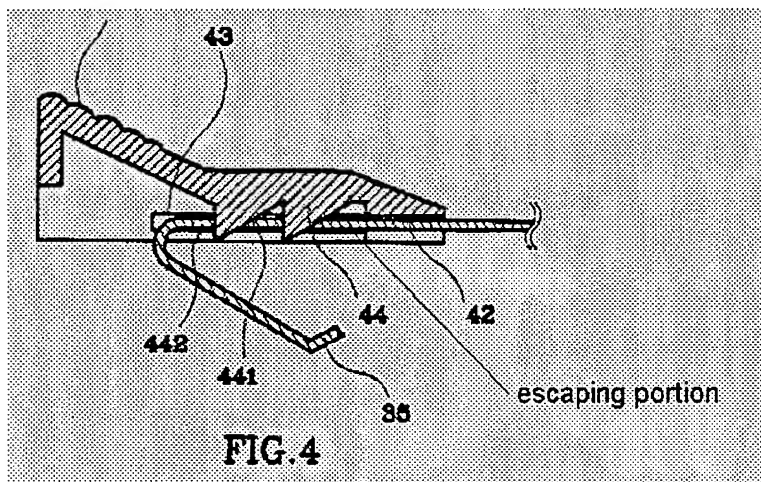


Regarding claim 5, Chang discloses the housing comprising at least one projection (surrounding chambers 53-63) having a cut-out (see figure below and Fig. 5B) into which the resilient locking piece (46) can escape when being positioned in the unlocking posture.



Regarding claim 6, Chang discloses the movable member (60) comprising at least one escaping portion (see following figure) into which the resilient locking piece (at

lease end 35) escapes when being moved between the locking posture and the unlocking posture. Please note that portion 35 of the resilient piece can escape into the portion of the movable member (40) shown below.



Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ji et al. (US 6,558,183) and Weber (US 6,149,451) disclose connectors with resilient locking pieces and movable members.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felix O. J. [unclear]", followed by a horizontal line.